

## Exchange With Reporters on Iraq July 21, 1992

Q. Mr. President, have you heard anything about Saddam Hussein being assassinated?

*The President.* I only saw a wire service report. And they have no confirmation of that at all.

Q. Is the U.S. ready to turn up the heat on Iraq again, Mr. President?

*The President.* We want Iraq to comply

with the United Nations resolution. And we are insisting that they comply with the U.N. resolution. But I know nothing about the other at all.

*Note: The exchange began at 10:20 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to the President's departure for Philadelphia, PA.*

## Remarks at the Presidential Open Forum on Educational Choice in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 21, 1992

*The President.* Before taking your questions let me just make a few brief comments. The first, of course, is to say how very, very pleased I am to be here, and secondly, to thank Maria for that extraordinarily personal and generous and kind welcome and introduction; to say to Kelly Geiger, I'm glad he's not running for President this year—[laughter]—articulate guy that he is. But I was most moved, as I told His Eminence, by Kelly's presentation and by Maria's introduction.

I want to say how pleased I was to be here for the lovely grace, most appropriately said before our meeting here today. May I salute His Eminence Cardinal Bevilacqua and salute him for his leadership in working for the broad principle that kids ought to be able to choose the school that they attend. It is a sound principle, and I support it strongly.

Our "GI bill" for children is not conceived out of denigration for the public school system. Indeed, the way our proposal works, it would enhance and strengthen the public schools, as well as providing choice for the families that want to send their kids to parochial schools, to private schools, be they religious or not.

So we've got a good proposal. I support it all the way, and I will fight for it. I believe that it will make all schools better, not just

those that are selected by the people who participate in this marvelous program.

I also want to salute Lamar Alexander, the former Governor of the State of Tennessee, an outstanding Secretary of Education who is not afraid to take on the educational establishment because he knows and I know that in the program we have, a program called America 2000, we are on the right track in terms of offering the best possible education to every kid in this country. We literally want to revolutionize education and bring the control and participation as close as possible to the families, as close as possible to the local communities. That's the rationale behind what I think is the best and boldest new education program that's been ever conceived for our country. Again, I want to take that case to the American people.

We've made some progress in education, but we've got to do more. We have six national education goals that we've set out, and it ranges all the way from Head Start, support for that, all the way up to the fact that no one's too old to learn. Lamar talked me into demonstrating that no one is too old to learn, and I've learned now how to turn on my computer, and I am making dramatic headway. [Laughter] I refuse to take on any of these kids, however, in computer science. But we've got a good pro-